Deportation orders served to Indian Students in Uzbekistan

204. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 50 Indian students studying medicine in Uzbekistan have been served with deportation orders if they do not pay up the dues forthwith; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the evacuation of these students or alternatively facilitate continuance of their studies?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SNGH): (a) and (b) 210 Indian students pursuing various courses of study (including Medicine) in Uzbekistan were asked by the Government of Uzbekistan to pay tution fees ranging from $ 1500 to $3000 per year. They were also told that failure to pay these fees by 20 February 1993 would lead to their deportation.

Our Ambassador in Tashkent took up this matter at high levels in the Government of Uzbekistan who have now agreed to scale down the fees originally prescribed and to extend the deadline for its payment to the end of the current academic year (June 1993).

These students had not been sponsored by the Government of India and had gone to Uzbekistan to pursue their studies on their own or under sponsorship offered by various private organisations. It is hoped that by the end of the current academic year, these students or their sponsors would find it possible to arrange for the payment of the reduced scale of fees which are yet to be announced by the Government of Uzbekistan.

Damage suffered by Indian missions abroad

205. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of damage suffered by the Indian Missions in various countries in the wake of recent developments in Ayodhya; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government for the protection of the Indian Missions including the staff and their families working therein?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Indian Missions in Pakistan and Bangladesh suffered damages in the wake of recent developments in Ayodhya. A claim for compensation equivalent of Rs. 1.48 crores has been lodged with Government of Bangladesh. As regards attack on our Consul General's residence in Karachi the claim is being worked out.

(b) The security of our missions abroad, including that of our diplomats and their families, is the responsibility of the host Government. In the wake of the attacks on our missions in Dhaka and Karachi by violent mobs following the developments in Ayodhya, we requested the host Governments to enhance the security arrangements for the protection of our diplomats and their families. We also